

Message Text

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62

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-10

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R 201600Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3373

INFO AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 3393

MARSEILLE, PARIS AND RABAT FOR DEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SNAR, AG, MO

SUBJ: ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN RELATIONS: L'AUORE

REVELATIONS ON MOROCCAN DRUG TRAFFIC

1. UNDER BANNER HEADLINE QUOTE ROYAL FAMILY COMPROMISED
UNQUOTE, NOVEMBER 20 EDITION OF OFFICIAL ALGERIAN DAILY
EL MOUDJAHID DEVOTES NEARLY FULL PAGE TO RECENT L'AUORE
EXPOSE ON HASHISH TRAFFIC IN MOROCCO. REPORTING FEATURES
CHARGES OF ROYAL FAMILY INVOLVEMENT IN TRAFFICKING, AS
WELL AS REPORT THAT MAFIA FIGURE, WHO RECENTLY ESCAPED
FROM PRISON ON AN ISLAND, IS NOW IN RABAT DIRECTING DRUG
SMUGGLING OPERATIONS. KETAMA, ARTICLE NOTES, IS MOROCCAN
KATHMANDU, AND MOROCCAN AUTHORITIES SAID TO TOLERATE
HASHISH CULTIVATION THERE WHILE SUPPRESSING IT RIGOROUSLY
ELSEWHERE IN COUNTRY. IN ADDITION TO EXCERPTS FROM
L'AUORE PIECE, EL MOUDJAHID CARRIES BRIEF ARTICLE
REVELING IN CORRUPTION AND DEGREDDATION OF MOROCCAN
MONARCHY AND SOCIETY AND NOTING RECENT EFFORTS OF
ALGERIAN ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO BLOCK MOVEMENT OF
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MOROCCAN HASHISH THROUGH ALGERIA.

2. COMMENT: PROMINENT PLAY GIVEN L'AUREOLE PIECE IS PRESUMABLY PART OF ANTI-MOROCCO CAMPAIGN CONNECTED TO SPANISH SAHARA EMBROGLIO. WE DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT PROPAGANDA WARFARE WILL BE SUPPLEMENTED WITH RENEWED CRACKDOWN BY ALGERIAN AUTHORITIES ON DRUG SMUGGLING FROM MOROCCO TO EUROPE VIA ALGERIA. ALTHOUGH POLICE AND CUSTOMS HERE HAVE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THIS TRAFFIC HAS BEEN GREATLY REDUCED, WE SUSPECT THAT A CRACKDOWN WOULD LEAD TO INCREASED RATE OF SEIZURES AND ARRESTS.

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